



Programa de Pós-Graduação  
em Terapia Ocupacional  
da UFSCar

# Occupational therapy education in Latin America related to “The Social“. The perspective from curricular plans

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**PPGTO** Programa de Pós-Graduação  
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Doctoral research in Occupational Therapy: “The social aspect of Occupational Therapy education in Latin America from the curricular perspective and the teachers’ voices,” approved by the Ethics Committee for Research with Human Subjects (CEP) of the Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil, with favorable opinion number 5.805.006, CAAE:

65013222.8.00005504.



IMAGEN SOBRE CULTURA Y LIBERACIÓN  
DE AMÉRICA LATINA POR LUIS BRITTO  
GARCIA, 2025

# Topics

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general information

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methodological  
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About the first educational  
programs in Latin America

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theoretical reference

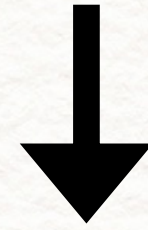
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Exploration results

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Social perspectives in  
education programs

# Research question



My question is:

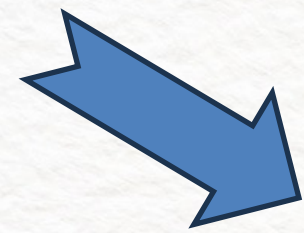
¿Do curricular and practice demonstrate theoretical and methodological references for a social response to occupational therapy? ?

# Purpose of the study– exploratory phase

- To characterize academic programs and curricula in LATAM.
- To identify and understand “the social” in the curriculum based on emphasis in the subjects.



# Methodological framework



**EXPLORATORY  
PHASE**

Document-based  
analysis: general  
characteristics  
of the programs.

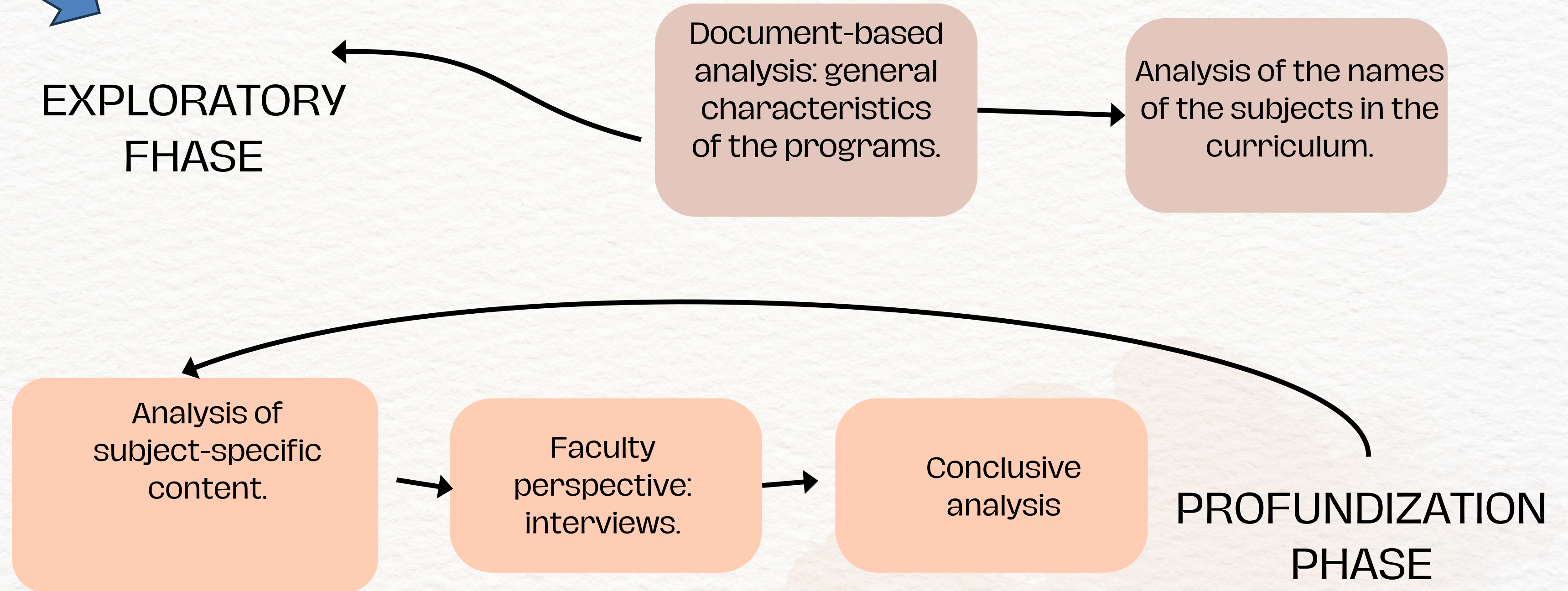
Analysis of the names  
of the subjects in the  
curriculum.

Analysis of  
subject-specific  
content.

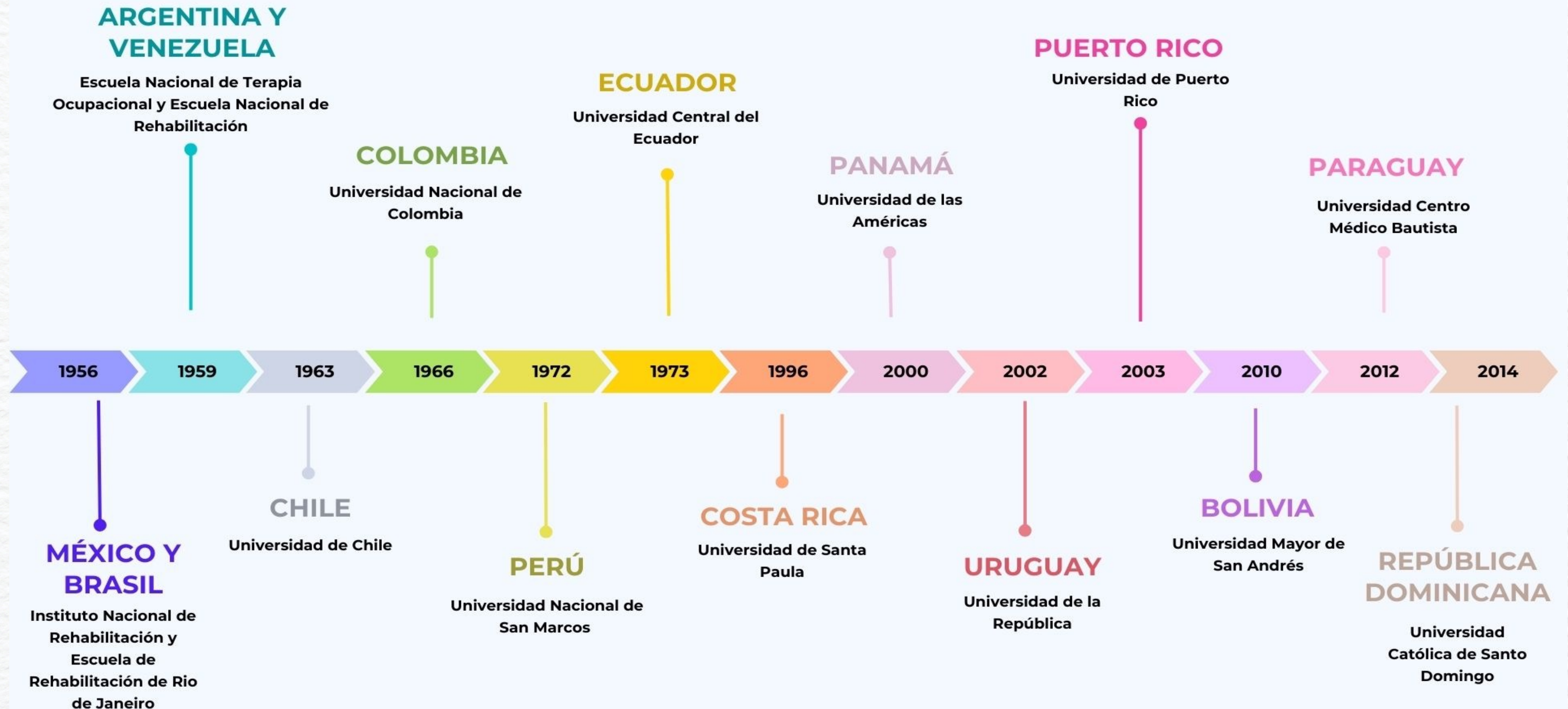
Faculty  
perspective:  
interviews.

Conclusive  
analysis

**PROFUNDIZATION  
PHASE**



# About the first occupational therapy programs in Latin America



# Perspectives on “The Social”

## Historical overview

### SOCIAL AS AN ADJETIVE

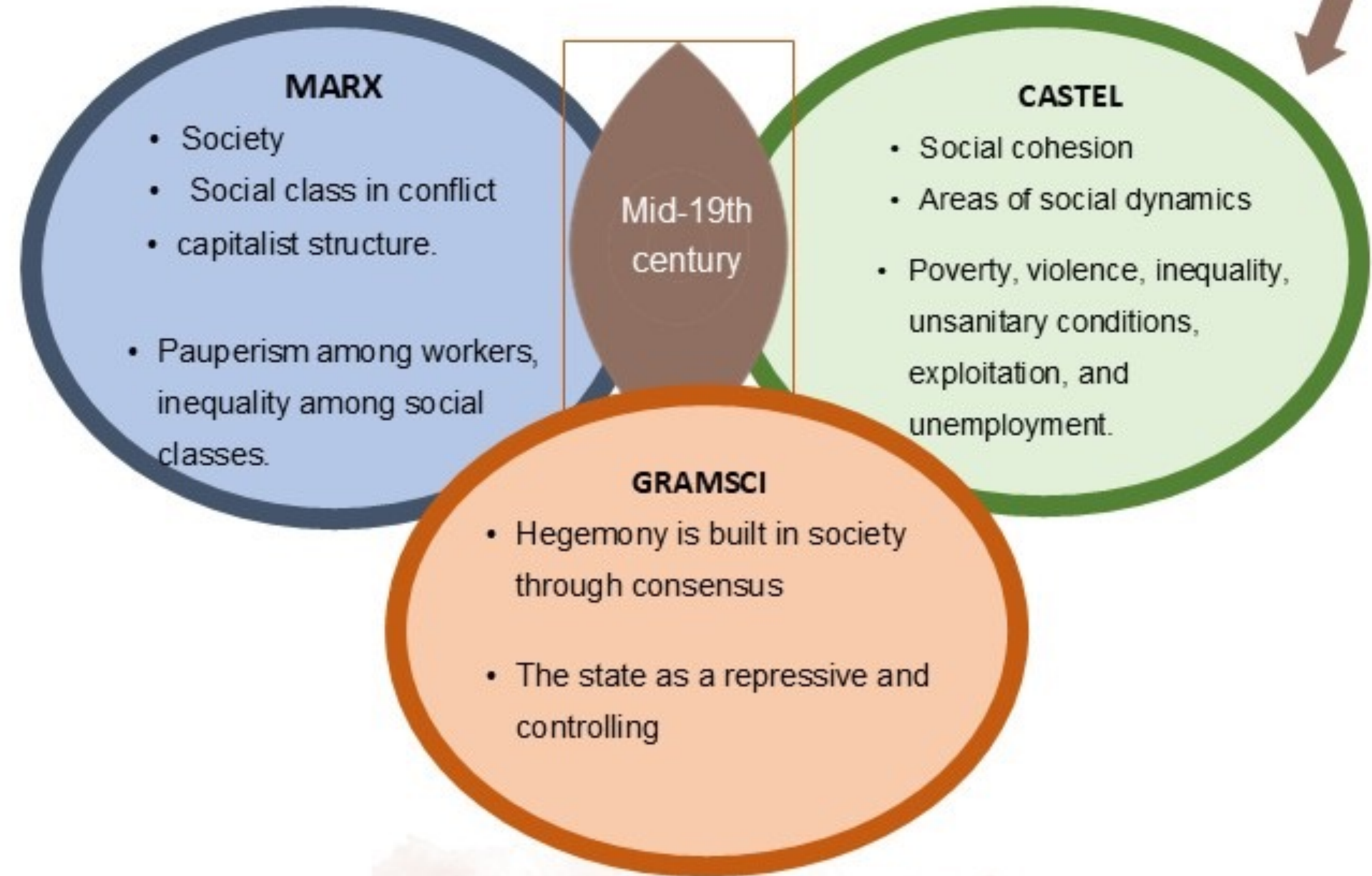
- Society/social
- community, group, general.
- Human and society
- Social support
- Social policies
- Social actions
- Social Class

End of the 19th century and  
beginning of the 20th century

### SOCIAL AS A NOUN

- Critical perspective: social transformation and social movements.
- Traditional perspective: social unrest, and social disorder
- Not all social issues concern society as a whole, but rather a discontented or disadvantaged segment of it.

### Social Question



VITOR STRAZZERI (2014)  
PEDRO NETTO (2001)  
KARL MARX (1998; 2007)  
CASTELO (2010)  
ROBERT CASTEL (2015)

# Occupational therapy programs in Latin America -2023



## EXPLORATORY PHASE: RESULTS

# Characteristics of undergraduate academic programs



123 higher education institutions  
142 education programs

80 located in faculties related to health, body care, or  
medical fields.

8 located in social sciences, education, or public health  
faculties

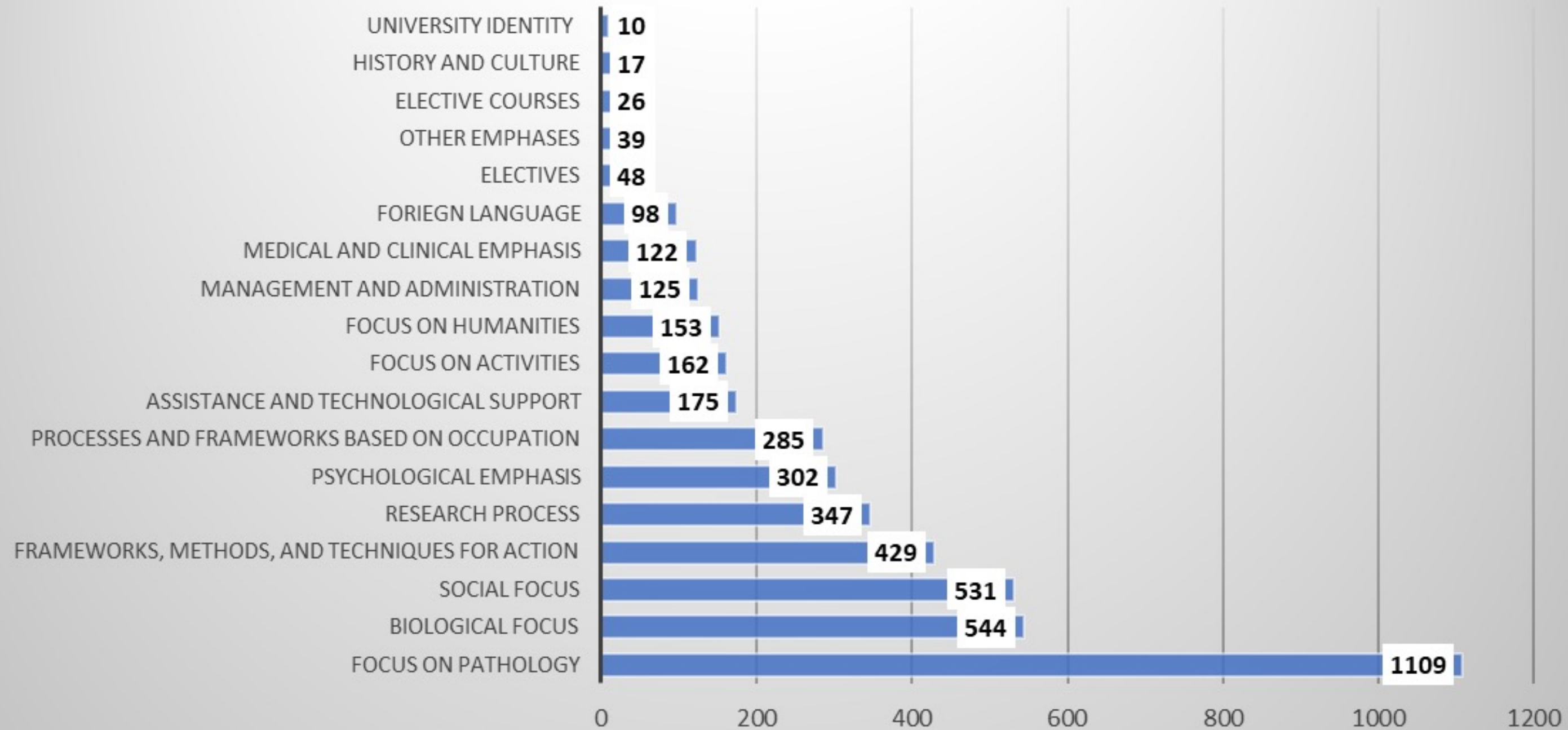
8 to 10 semesters with a bachelor's degree, occupational  
therapist, or OT professional.

3400 average academics hours .

49 average subjects

# About subjects names

## Curricular emphasis in occupational therapy



Based on Pérez (2021).

# Analysis of subject nominations

Objectifying the body: From segmentation and negative aspects

Focused on functionality and cure.

Tendency towards

Medicalization, pathologization.

Dichotomies: binary thinking

Mechanical attributes to human beings.



# Social perspectives in education programs

**Social as an area  
of knowledge or  
practice in  
occupational  
therapy**



Human rights – APS  
Territorial and community  
Social participation -  
inclusion/exclusion  
Vulnerability  
Individual and collective actions  
Practice areas

**Two  
understandings**

**Social  
Occupational  
Therapy as an  
epistemological  
field**



Social Question - Historical  
materialism  
Relationship between the state  
and society, citizenship,  
inequality, poverty  
Participation and social inclusion  
Territory and culture  
Field of practice

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Thank you so  
much!



More information

